AAFPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: D A L E, H a r o l d B
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: O-[illegible]
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [illegible]: Bombardier

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Vajkovic, near Kolisin, in Yugoslavia.

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Standing in the bomb bays pointing towards the ground.

Was he injured? Yes.

Where was he when last seen? In the bomb bays.

Any hearsay information: Lt. Dale sprained his ankle.

Source: Whole crew.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Lt. Dale wanted nothing but ribbons, just like most Bombardiers, and talked his way into a trip back to the states with a chest full of medals that other men lose their lives for.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Eight.

Dates and destinations if possible: 6/30/44-Bonito Alhad, 7/2/44-Budapest, 7/3/44-Bucharest, 7/7/44-Odertal, 7/8/44-Munchendorf, 7/12/44-Kiramas, 7/13/44Porto Maghera, 7/15/44 Ploesti.

6-3861, AF

APPENDIX 11
7

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: DALE, Harold B.
Rank: Sgt 14
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Bombardier.

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Moykovac, Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? yes. Bone in Ankle fractured

Where was he when last seen? Was United with rest of crew.

~~Any hearsay information~~: _____

This crew member was returned safely to Allied control with remaining Nine crew members. One crew member was killed.

~~Source~~: This crew member later returned to the U.S.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: No Knowledge

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: D A L E, H a r o l d B.
Rank: 2nd Lt
Serial number: O-707468
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted]: Bombardier.

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Conversed with in cockpit prior to bail out, immediately before.

Was he injured? Left or right ankle sprained.

Where was he when last seen? Bari, Italy

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member: No knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

[illegible]PA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: KARSTENS, Ferdinand V.
Rank: Sgt
Serial number: 37561855
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [illegible] Asst Engineer, Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? Majkovic, near Kalisin, in Yugoslavia.

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Over interphone system in preparations for bailing out.

Was he injured? Not before bailing out, but was killed then.

Where was he when last seen? Standing by the ball turret which had been retracted.

Any hearsay information: From all indications, he was the last one to leave the plane as the pilot saw a chute come out of the plane after he had left it, and upon investigating this after reaching the ground, the pilot found him dead.

Source: Pilot.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: The man had always stated that he didn't have the courage to bail out and I think that he had made up his mind to do it and he either hit the hatch on his way out or he was hit from some flying part of the plane when it blew up as he was lying within 100 feet of the plane and his chute was open.

Total number of missions of above crew member: Eight, I think.

Dates and destinations if possible: June 20, 1944 - Ponte Albad, 7/2/44 - Bucharest, 7/7/44 - Odertal, 7/8/44 - Munchendorf, 7/12/44 - Mirisse, 7/13/44 - Porto Vaghera, and July 15, 1944 - Ploesti.

6-3861, AF

AFPRA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: KARSTENS, Ferdinand V
Rank: Sgt
Serial number: 37561685
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Engineer~~: Assistent Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? MayKerac, Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? Yes. — Killed.

Where was he when last seen? In Waist Compartment of Airplane

~~Any bouncy information~~: _____

This crew member was killed while bailing out. Due to head injuries. Was buried in Kolasin, Yugoslavia. Family of this crew member have been informed of all particulars.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: _____

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

6-3861, AF

AFPPR-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: KARSTENS, Ferdinand V.
Rank: 1st Lt
Serial number: [redacted]
Position: Crew (Bomber) or [redacted] Assistant Engineer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

During Mission on interfphone

Was he injured? Killed

Where was he when last seen? Body last seen in Yugoslavia

Any hearsay information:

Source:

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member: 13

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6696

Name of crew member: VOCHATZER, Herbert C.
Rank: Pfc
Serial number: 37499445
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~Engineer~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Majkovic, near Kolisin, in Yugoslavia

If not, why not?

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane:

Over interphone system in preparations for bailing out.

Was he injured? No

Where was he when last seen? Standing in the bomb bays.

Any hearsay information: He bailed out after the engineer had left the plane and when he landed on the ground contacted the engineer later. About one hour, I think.

Source: Engineer.

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition:

Total number of missions of above crew member: ~~About 15, I think~~

Dates and destinations if possible:

6-3861, AF

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: ~~XXX~~ V O C H A T Z E R H e r b e r t C
Rank: Pfc
Serial number: 37499442
Position: Crew (Bomber) ~~or XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes.

Where? May Karac, Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Was he injured? No.

Where was he when last seen? _____

~~Any necessary information~~: _____

This Crew Member returned safely to Allied Control. Flew Missions later.

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: " "

AFPPA-11

INDIVIDUAL CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE # 6896

Name of crew member: VOCHATZER, Herbert C.
Rank: Pfc
Serial number: 37429468
Position: Crew (Bomber) or ~~Fighter~~ Armorer Gunner

Did he bail out? Yes

Where? Yugoslavia

If not, why not? _____

Last contact or conversation just prior to or at time of loss of plane: _____

Prior to time of bailing out. He was on flight deck and a check was made with him to see if other gunners and navigator were out.

Was he injured? Not apparently.

Where was he when last seen? Naples, Italy

Any hearsay information: _____

Source: _____

Any explanation of his fate based in part or wholly on supposition: _____

Total number of missions of above crew member: No Knowledge

Dates and destinations if possible: _____

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[redacted]

9. Armorer Gunner Vochatzer, Herbert C. Pfc. 37499443 Benjamin F. Vochatzer (Father) 340 Hellefontaine Kansas City, Missouri

10. Gunner Kosinski, Hipolit P. Pfc. 35527803 Mary Kowalewski (Aunt) RFD #3 Ravenna, Ohio

11.

12.

11. IDENTIFY BELOW THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE LAST KNOWLEDGE OF AIRCRAFT AND CHECK APPROPRIATE (only one) COLUMN TO INDICATE BASIS FOR SAME:

NAME IN FULL	RANK	SERIAL NO.	Contacted by Radio	Last Sighted	Saw Crash	Saw Forced Landing
1. EDWIN C. KIESELBACH	2nd Lt.	O-761118		X		
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

12. IF PERSONNEL ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE SURVIVED, CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
( ) Parachutes were used ( ) Persons seen walking away from scene of crash
( ) Any other reason (specify) Not known

13. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, EITHER AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH; MAP, CHART, OR SKETCH, SHOWING APPROXIMATE LOCATION WHERE AIRCRAFT WAS LAST SEEN.

14. ATTACH, AS ENCLOSURES TO THIS REPORT, EYEWITNESS DESCRIPTIONS OF CRASH, FORCED LANDING, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES PERTAINING TO MISSING AIRCRAFT.

15. ATTACH, AS AN INCLOSURE TO THIS REPORT, A DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTENT OF SEARCH, IF ANY, AND GIVE NAME, RANK, AND SERIAL NUMBER OF OFFICER IN CHARGE HEREOF. (If no search, so state giving reason) No search made. Plane last seen over enemy territory

Date of this Report: 17 July 1944

Robert E. Horton
(Signature of Preparing Officer)
ROBERT E. HORTON,
Major, Air Corps,
Executive.

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Sketch of Target
Incl 2 - Statement by Lt. Kieselbach

AUG 23 1944

RECEIVED

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WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

6895

IMPORTANT: This report will be compiled by each Army Air Forces organization within 48 hours of the time personnel are officially reported missing.

1. ORGANIZATION: Location San Giovanni Field, Italy Command or AF 15th Air Force Group 455th Bombardment Group Squadron 742nd Bombardment Squadron

2. SPECIFY: Point of Departure San Giovanni Fld, Italy Course Direct
Target Ploesti, Rumania Type of Mission High Altitude Formation Bombing

3. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT TIME OF CRASH OR WHEN LAST REPORTED:
Complete Undercast

4. GIVE: (a) Date 15 July 1944 Time 1230 Location Tsibr, Bulgaria of last known whereabouts of missing aircraft.
(b) Specify whether: (X) Last Sighted ( ) Last Contacted by Radio
( ) Forced Down ( ) Seen to Crash; or
( ) Information not available.

5. AIRCRAFT WAS LOST OR IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LOST, AS A RESULT OF: (Check only one)
( ) Enemy Aircraft (X) Enemy Anti-Aircraft ( ) Other circumstances as follows:

6. AIRCRAFT: Type, Model & Series B-24-H AAF Serial No 42-95325

7. ENGINES: Type, Model & Series R-1830-43 AAF Serial No (a) 43617
(b) 311838 (c) 311868 (d) 311907

8. INSTALLED WEAPONS: (Furnish below Make, Type, and Serial Number)
(a) Browning AC Mach Gun M-2 1184417 (b) Browning AC Mach Gun M-2 1184580
(c) " " " 1187893 (d) " " " 1186114
(e) " " " 1187835 (f) " " " 1187719
(g) " " " 1184745 (h) " " " 1184352
(i) " " " 1188257 (j) " " " 1184204

9. PERSONNEL LISTED BELOW REPORTED AS: (x) Battle Casualty ( ) Non-Battle Cas.

10. NUMBER OF PERSONS ABOARD AIRCRAFT: Crew 10 Passengers None Total 10
(Starting with "Pilot" furnish the following particulars; if more than 12 persons were aboard list similar particulars on separate sheet and attach to this form)

	CREW POSITION	NAME IN FULL (Last Name First)	RANK	SERIAL NO	NEXT OF KIN, RELATIONSHIP, AND ADDRESS
1.	Pilot RTD	Bush, James R.	2nd Lt.	0-693619	Mrs. Laverne I. Bush (Wife) 211 No. 5th St. Henryetta, Oklahoma
2.	Co-Pilot RTD	Brown, William R	2nd Lt.	0-693250	Mrs. Hortense Brown (Wife) 1152 Oklami Dr. Southwest Atlanata, Georgia
3.	Navigator RTD	Kieffer, Raymond L	F/O.	0-123766	Mrs. Lois R. Kieffer (Wife) 3904 Paseo Kansas City, Missouri
4.	Bombardier KIA	Dale, Harold B.	2nd Lt.	0-703462	Lester C. Dale (Father) 410 No. Morris St. Castonia, North Carolina
5.	Asst Rad Oper Gun RTD	Frank, George E., Jr	S/Sgt.	35621115	Mabel M. Frank (Mother) 919 So. 5th St., Greenville, Illinois
6.	Engineer Gun. RTD	Riddingfield, Russell D.	S/Sgt.	16122855	Mae Riddingfield (Mother) Hull, Illinois
7.	Asst Rad Oper Gun RTD	Morris, Charles H.	Sgt.	14159103	Thelma O. Morris (Mother) Route 1, Fayetteville, Tennessee
8.	Asst Eng Gun KIA	Karstens, Ferdinand V.	Sgt.	37561885	Christine Karstens (Mother) Ward, South Dakota

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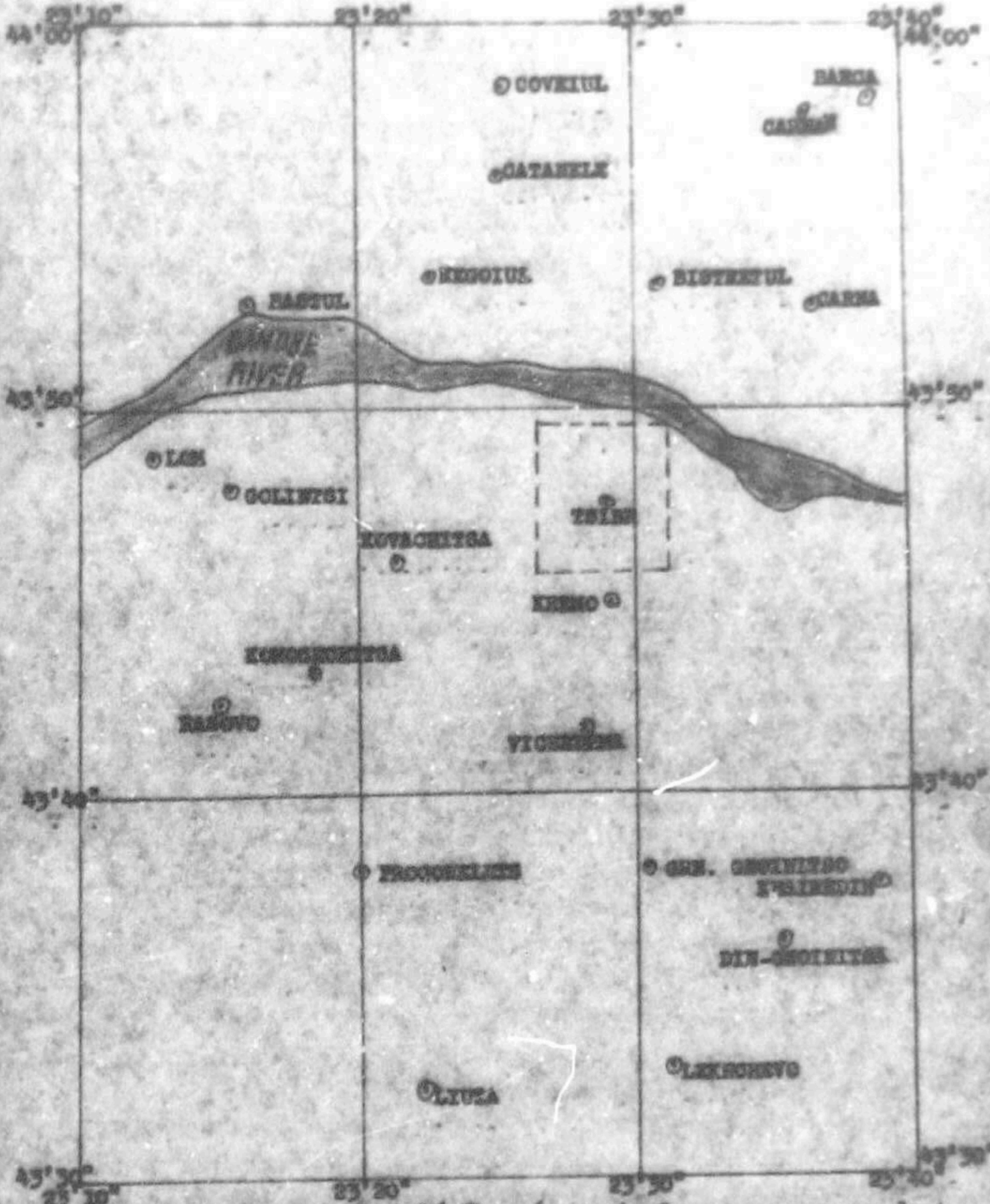
Incl #1

(See Reverse Side)

No. 115

Ship last seen over Teibr, Bulgaria.

SCALE 1:250,000



1-61H1 6 MAC R 4 Lt Bend and Cire

AFTTA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name James Raymond Bush Rank 1st Lt. Serial No. 0-692619

2. Organization 455 Gp Commander _____ Rank ___ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month July day 15 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Ploesti, Rumania, target, _____, target time, _____, altitude, _____ route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? Over the target.

6. Did you bail out? Yugoslavia

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". All the crew bailed out in Yugoslavia as ordered approx. five minutes before I did I

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Yugoslavia

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None

11. Where were they in aircraft? _____

12. What was their condition? _____

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? Last saw all members of crew in Italy in August 1944, all in good health except Ferdinand V. Karstens and last saw his body in Koloshin, Yugoslavia.

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

Pilot - James R. Bush, 2nd Lt — Safe
co-Pilot - D. A. Starnes, 2nd Lt —
Bomb. — Harold B. Dale - 2nd Lt
Navigator - Raymond S. Keiffer - F.O.
Engineer - Russell D. Eddingfield - T/Sgt
Radio Op. - George W. Frank - T/Sgt
Nose Gun. - Vochatzer Herbert C. - P.F.C.
Tail " - Hipolis P. Kosinski - "
Waist Gunner - Charles H. Morris - Sgt

Returned Safely to Allied Control

Waist " - Ferdinand V. Karsteas - Sgt. — Killed

AFPPA-12

CASUALTY QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Your name Eddingfield, Russell D. Rank T/Sgt. Serial No. 16122855

2. Organization 455 BG 740 BS Cp Commander ~~[illegible]~~ Rank ~~Col~~ Sqn CO _____ Rank _____
(full name) (full name)

3. What year 1944 month July day 15 did you go down?

4. What was the mission, Polesti, target, Oil fields, target time, 1100, altitude, 20,000 route scheduled, _____, route flown _____

5. Where were you when you left formation? Over Target

6. Did you bail out? Yes, in Yugoslavia, After flying there for some time.

7. Did other members of crew bail out? Yes.

8. Tell all you know about when, where, how each person in your aircraft for whom no individual questionnaire is attached bailed out. A crew list is attached. Please give facts. If you don't know, say: "No Knowledge". Each crew member bailed out, July 15, 1944, Near Maykovac, Yugoslavia, All returned to Allied control safely, except one who was killed. (Sgt. Ferdinand V. Karstens) (OVER)

9. Where did your aircraft strike the ground? Near Maykovac, Yugoslavia

10. What members of your crew were in the aircraft when it struck the ground? (Should cross check with 8 above and individual questionnaires) None.

11. Where were they in aircraft? _____

12. What was their condition? _____

13. When, where, and in what condition did you last see any members not already described above? _____

14. Please give any similar information on personnel of any other crew of which you have knowledge. Indicate source of information. _____

(Any additional information may be written on the back)

6-3862, AF

AG 201-Eaker,ens, Ferdinand W., (Ret)-O 2nd Ind. JKH/ss
(5 Oct 44)
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 11 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

JACK K. HOWARD,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

[redacted]

PPA-1
JKR/cm

AG 201-Karstens, Ferdinand V., (Enl)-C 2nd Ind.
(5 Oct 44)
HQ., MTOUSA, APO 512, U. S. Army, 11 November 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Army Air Forces, Washington 25, D. C.

Attention invited to preceding indorsement.

For the THEATER COMMANDER:

Classification changed
to RESTRICTED
by E. A. BRADOMAS, Lt. Col., AC
by F. M. MUENCH, Capt., AC
Date MAR 16 1946

JACK R. ROBERTS,
1st Lt., AGD,
Asst. Adjutant General.

6892

[redacted]

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ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ATTENTION:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

October 5, 1944

SUBJECT: Missing Air Crew Report.

TO : Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, A.P.O. 520, c/o Postmaster, New York, New York.

1. Reference is made to the Missing Air Crew Report dated 17 July 1944, 455th Bomb Group, 742nd Bomb Squadron, aircraft model, B-24H, serial number 42-95325.

2. Request interrogation of returning airmen concerning circumstances surrounding death of Sergeant Ferdinand V. Karstens, 37561885, first reported missing in action 15 July 1944.

For the Commanding General:

E. A. Braduna

E. A. BRADUNAS,
Major, A. G. D.,
Chief, Notification Branch,
Personal Affairs Division,
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel.

AG 704 1st Ind. CP/R/eh
HQ FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE, APO 520, 7 November 1944.

TO: CG, MTOUSA, APO 512. Att'n: Casualty Branch, AGD.

1. Sgt Karstens was reported KIA on the basis of information from returning crew members that he delayed his jump too long and his parachute did not open in time. His body was recovered by his own crew members and partisans, and given a full military funeral, in Yugoslavia.

For the Commanding General:

WINDLE D. REED,
Major, Air Corps,
Assistant AG.

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STATEMENT

Last saw B-24, 325, approximately over Yugoslavia and Rumanian borde , Altitude 15000 to 20000 feet feathering 3 & 4 engines, however last seen losing altitude with 1 & 4 engines feathered.

Edwin C. Kiesbach

EDWIN C. KIESBACH,
2nd Lt., Air Corps,
O-761118.

Encl #2 to MACR of Lt. Bush and Crew